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AMERICAS

Uruguay Sees First Civil Union

Uruguay's first civil union took place April 17, more than three months after Latin America's first national civil union law came into force.

Actor Adrián Figuera, 38, and theater director Juan Carlos Moretti, 67, tied the knot before a judge, family and friends. The couple have been together 14 years.

Couples must live together for five years before they can take advantage of the law, which grants spousal rights in areas that include inheritance, property ownership, pensions, parenting and health care.

The law applies to "two people—whatever their sex, identity, orientation or sexual option may be—who maintain an emotional relationship of a sexual nature [and] an exclusive, singular, stable and permanent character without being united in matrimony."

Other Latin American localities with civil union laws include the city of Buenos Aires, the Argentine province of Río Negro, the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, Mexico City and the Mexican state of Coahuila, which borders Texas.

Colombian Court Grants Pension Rights to Gay Couples

Colombia's Constitutional Court ruled that same-sex couples have the same right to enroll in pension plans as married couples, *El Tiempo* reported April 17.

"This is yet another incredible victory by the Colombian LGBT rights organization Colombia Diversa, which worked with the Public Interest



Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil will help monitor gay issues in the news as part of a new Queer Media Collective in India.

Group at the University of Los Andes in Bogotá to bring the issue to the court and emerge victorious," said New York City activist Andrés Duque, a Colombian immigrant.

Last October, the same court ruled that gay people can add their partners to their health insurance plans. Same-sex couples must register their unions with a notary before applying for benefits. The ruling covered private insurance and government-run health care, known as social security.

In February 2007, the Constitutional Court extended spousal property and inheritance rights to same-sex couples.

In other Colombian news, transsexual Darlyn Acevedo Ramírez, 19, was murdered March 23 in Cali, becoming the 13th transsexual to be killed in the city in the past two years. She was attacked by a group of men at a traffic circle in the Alfonso López neighborhood, the same location where two of the other killings occurred.

None of the cases has been solved, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, which said more than 3,000 transsexuals live in the city.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Media Monitoring Group Launches in India

A gay journalists group has formed in Mumbai, India, to lobby for balanced treatment of gay issues in the media and entertainment industries.

The Queer Media Collective kicked off its activities with an awards ceremony April 19. Honorees included the newspaper *Hindustan Times*, the magazine *Time Out*, NDTV, the television channel Zee Café, *Mumbai Mirror* advice columnist Mahinder Watsa, *Sunday Times* columnist Bachi Karkaria, television reporter Barkha Dutt, filmmaker Reema Kagti, the CNN-IBN documentary series *The Alternate Sexuality* and, as queer newsperson of the year, Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, who was disowned by his family for coming out in a news article.

"Barkha Dutt...is pretty much the most respected TV journalist in the country," said media collective spokesman Vikram Doctor.

Singapore TV Station Fined for Too-Gay Broadcast

Singapore's Media Development Authority has fined MediaCorp TV's Channel 5 \$11,000 for airing a program that was too gay-friendly.

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